

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CURACA 00472 102323Z

70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 CAB-09 COME-00

DOTE-00 EB-11 FAA-00 DRC-01 /127 W

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FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1985

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

INFO COMFAIRCARIB ROOSEVELT RDS PR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS CURACAO 0472

PANAMA FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, NA, VE

SUBJECT: ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF NA AIRSPACE BY US OR VENE-

ZUELAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT

1. SINCE SEPT 6, VENEZUELA AND/OR US MILITARY AIRCRAFT HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN OVERFLYING NA AIRSPACE WITHOUT CLEARANCE. NA AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS HAVE PROTESTED THAT THIS CAUSES SAFETY HAZARDS AND HAVE THREATENED TO DISCONTINUE USE OF PLESMAN AIRPORT, CURACAO.

2. NEWSPAPERS ON SEPT 10 REPORT THAT VENEZUELAN CONGEN HAS STATED THAT AIRCRAFT ARE PARTICIPATING IN JOINT US-VENEZUELAN MANEUVERS CALLED QTE HALCON VISTA UNQTE AND REFERRED REPORTERS TO CONGEN. ONLY KNOWLEDGE CONGEN HAD OF US MILITARY MANEUVERS INVOLVING NA IS JOINT DUTCH-US OPERATION FOR WHICH USS AUSTIN WAS IN CURACAO SEPT 7-9 AND WHICH DOES NOT INVOLVE VENEZUELA OR NA AIR TERRITORY. CONGEN
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PAGE 02 CURACA 00472 102323Z

HAS REFERRED REPORTERS QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS OPERATION

TO DUTCH NAVAL COMMANDER, COMMODORE LANDZAAT.

3. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPERS VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND LOCAL CONSUL GENERAL HAS STATED THAT MANEUVERS WERE CONCEIVED BY USG AND ANY COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO WASHINGTON. NA GOVERNOR LEITO HAS HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF MANEUVERS AND HAS TELEGRAPHED THE HAGUE.

4. PRIME MINISTER EVERTSZ QUERRIED ME ABOUT THE ALLEGED JOINT MANEUVERS INDICATING THAT INTEREST HAS BEEN SHOWN IN THE NA STATTEN (PARLIAMENT).

5. AFTER SEEING TONIGHT'S NEWS RELEASE, I TELEPHONED USDAO CARACAS AND SPOKE WITH LT. CMDR. KELEHER. HE ADVISED ME THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE THERE WERE JOINT US-VENEZUELAN MANEUVERS BUT THAT THEY WERE ONLY SUPPOSED TO OPERATE OVER VENEZUELAN TERRITORY AND THAT US PLANES HAD MADE NO REQUEST AND HAD NO PERMISSION TO OVERFLY NA TERRITORY. I REQUESTED CMDR. KELEHER TO IMMEDIATELY REQUEST US PLANES TO CEASE FLYING OVER ANY NA TERRITORY. HE STATED HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY DO SO. I THEN CALLED PRIME MINISTER EVERTSZ AND APOLOGISED FOR ANY POSSIBLE UNAUTHORIZED US MILITARY FLIGHTS OVER OR THROUGH NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AIRSPACE AND INFORMED HIM THAT I HAD CALLED THE USDAO IN THE US EMBASSY IN CARACAS AND REQUESTED THAT ANY UNAUTHORIZED US MILITARY FLIGHTS IMMEDIATELY CEASE. PRIME MINISTER EVERTSZ STATED THAT HE WISHED TO COOPERATE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE WITH THE USG AND WITH VENEZUELA BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN FORCED, IN THE INTERESTS OF SAFETY, AND ON THE ADVICE OF NA AIR CONTROLLERS, TO GROUND ALL ALM FLIGHTS TO AND FROM ARUBA AND BONAIRE UNTIL THIS MATTER WAS CLARIFIED.

6. COMMENT. IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT, IN THE INTERESTS OF AIR SAFETY, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS TAKEN EVERY PRECAUTION POSSIBLE TO HIM TO PREVENT ANY ACCIDENT. CONGEN REQUESTS THAT DOD AND ANY US AGENCIES IMMEDIATELY INSTRUCT ALL US UNAUTHORIZED MILITARY AIRCRAFT FROM OVERFLYING NA TERRITORY AND PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION. I MUST ADD THAT THE GNA HAS ALWAYS BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE
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PAGE 03 CURACA 00472 102323Z

IN GRANTING IMMEDIATE CLEARANCES FOR ANY US AIRCRAFT TO OVERFLY OR LAND IN THE NA AND IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT THIS GOOD RELATIONSHIP CONTINUE. THIS IS INDEED A SERIOUS MATTER, IN THAT AIR SERVICE TO THE POPULATIONS OF TWO IMPORTANT ISLANDS IN THE NA HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED. IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION AND GUIDANCE FOR PRESS STATEMENT AND FURTHER APOLOGIES IF US AIRCRAFT WERE INVOLVED IS REQUESTED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, PRESS COMMENTS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, AIR SAFETY REGULATIONS, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, JOINT VENTURES, FLIGHT CLEARANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CURACA00472
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740252-0154
From: CURACAO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740961/aaaabzet.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF NA AIRSPACE BY US OR VENE- ZUELAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, NA, VE, US, (KELEHER), (EVERTSZ)
To: STATE THE HAGUE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005